BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CAIFFPENEAL 01-08-08 04:59 PM

Order Instituting Rulemaking Regarding Policies, Procedures and Rules for the California Solar Initiative, the Self-Generation Incentive Program and Other Distributed Generation Issues. RULEMAKING 06-03-004 (Filed March 2, 2006)

Comments of the California Center for Sustainable Energy Regarding the Opinion Modifying Decision 06-08-028 Regarding Independent Performance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

California Center for Sustainable Energy

January 8, 2008

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking Regarding Policies, Procedures and Rules for the California Solar Initiative, the Self-Generation Incentive Program and Other Distributed Generation Issues. RULEMAKING 06-03-004 (Filed March 2, 2006)

Comments of the California Center for Sustainable Energy Regarding the Opinion Modifying Decision 06-08-028 Regarding Independent Performance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

I. INTRODUCTION

The California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE), formerly known as the San Diego Regional Energy Office (SDREO), appreciates the opportunity to offer these comments regarding the *Opinion Modifying Decision 06-08-028 Regarding Independent Performance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements* (Proposed Decision). CCSE is pleased to see and fully supports the following aspects of the Proposed Decision:

- The removal of the "independence" requirement for both Performance-Based Incentive (PBI) and Expected Performance Based Buydown (EPBB) Performance Monitoring and Reporting Service (PMRS) providers;
- The clear distinction between the value of the data for PBI and EPBB systems, in that PBI system data is used for payment whereas EPBB system data is not; and
- The allowance of thirty (30) days from the final workshop on Performance Data Provider (PDP) Qualifications for the Program Administrators (PAs) to submit an advice filing.

CCSE respectfully requests the following modifications to the Proposed Decision:

- Allowance of time for the convening of at least three workshops within sixty (60) days to resolve two final key issues;
- Revision of statement contained within the second paragraph on page 14 of the Proposed
 Decision to include the requirement that the PMRS provider be listed on the CEC eligible
 PMRS provider list;
- Reference to each CSI PA's individually revised and clarified Appendix A document, detailing each PA's Interim PBI Process; and
- Acknowledgment of authority of the PAs to modify the Interim PBI Process as needed until final approval of the long term process.

II. ALLOWANCE OF TIME FOR THE CONVENING OF AT LEAST THREE WORKSHOPS WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS TO RESOLVE TWO FINAL KEY ISSUES

CCSE recommends that the Proposed Decision be modified to allow time for the convening of at least three workshops within sixty (60) days of the date of the final decision to resolve two final key issues. The Metering Subcommittee convened on December 12, 2007, and identified two key issues that need to be addressed: (1) the selection of the data transfer format and (2) the definition of the PDP data validation rules. Both of these issues require specialized input from industry representatives. PG&E is presently spearheading the internal development and testing of PDP data validation rules, and after conferring with PG&E, it is our understanding that this process may take longer than the time allotted in the Proposed Decision. CCSE supports PG&E's leadership with this task.

CCSE proposes that the Metering Subcommittee convene one four-hour technical workshop, either on-site or via teleconference/web-seminar, to discuss the PDP data validation rules, and additionally one four-hour technical workshop, again either on-site or via teleconference/web-seminar, to discuss the selection of the data transfer format. These technical workshops would be held within thirty (30) days of the date of the final decision, allowing the PAs adequate time to work

through these final two contentious items and finalize the PDP Qualifications document for discussion with the Metering Subcommittee. To facilitate this discussion, CCSE proposes that the PAs be allowed to incorporate the changes into a revised draft to be reviewed in a final Metering Subcommittee workshop to be held approximately sixty (60) days after the date of the final decision.

III. REVISION OF STATEMENT CONTAINED WITHIN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 14 OF THE PROPOSED DECISION TO INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE PMRS PROVIDER BE LISTED ON THE CEC ELIGIBLE PMRS PROVIDER LIST

CCSE proposes that the statement contained within the second paragraph of page 14 of the Proposed Decision, be revised to include the requirement that the PMRS provider be listed on the CEC eligible PMRS provider list. The Proposed Decision presently states, "all EPBB systems, existing and new, will be allowed to receive PMRS from a provider of their choosing, irrespective of that entity's affiliation with the incentive recipient, solar manufacturers, or solar installers." CCSE proposes that this statement be revised to state, "all EPBB systems existing and new, will be allowed to receive PMRS from a provider of their choosing, irrespective of the entity's affiliation with the incentive recipient, solar manufacturers, or solar installers, so long as the provider is listed on the CEC eligible PMRS provider list." The addition of this requirement would ensure consumer protection for customers who participate in the CSI program, as well as ensure the accuracy and integrity of the solar system performance data for all EPBB systems.

IV. REFERENCE TO EACH CSI PA'S INDIVIDUALLY REVISED AND CLARIFIED APPENDIX A DOCUMENT, DETAILING EACH PA'S INTERIM PBI PROCESS

CCSE proposes that instead of the Appendix A document presently included with the Proposed Decision, the Commission accept and refer to each CSI PA's individually revised and clarified Appendix A document, detailing each PA's particular interim PBI Process. The Appendix A

¹ Opinion Modifying Decision 06-08-028 Regarding Independent Performance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements (Proposed Decision); December 19, 2007, page 14.

document, which describes the Interim CSI PBI Data Transfer Rules, was developed in response to a request by the Energy Division in August 2007. This document has since been revised and clarified by each PA, to best reflect each of our individual capabilities and data transfer requirements. The general requirements for each interim process plan are, for the most part, standardized such that installers doing business statewide will notice only minor differences between regions. We respectfully request that the Commission accept and refer to CCSE's Interim PBI Process, attached as Attachment A to these comments.

V. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PA AUTHORITY TO MODIFY THE INTERIM PBI PROCESS AS NEEDED UNTIL FINAL APPROVAL OF THE LONG TERM PROCESS

The development of the CSI PBI metering data transfer process has evolved relatively quickly as the Metering Subcommittee has delved more deeply into this relatively complex topic. The CSI program is indeed breaking new ground with the PBI data transfer requirements and as such, established models quickly become outdated or unclear. We respectfully request that the PAs maintain authority over the continued evolution of the Interim PBI Process. We feel the best way to make sure that these temporary requirements remain relevant and effective is to utilize the Metering Subcommittee as an advisory body, as described in the Proposed Decision, for discussing potential changes to this process, with the PAs maintaining the authority to implement them fluidly into the working document. Pending final approval of the long term process, managing this Interim PBI Process as a working document will allow the PAs the flexibility to make adjustments as needed to improve upon the current model.

VI. CONCLUSION

CCSE very much appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments in response to the Proposed Decision. CCSE looks forward to our continued role in the development and successful implementation of the CSI.

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Attachment A

CCSE Interim PBI Process

January 4, 2007

PDP Approval Process

CCSE will accept data from any CEC qualified PMRS provider as a PDP until the longer term PBI Payment Process and Performance Data Provider (PDP) Requirements are established. When a program participant submits their PMRS contract at the Incentive Claim stage, we will work with the participant to obtain the proper contact information (name, email, telephone number, etc.) for that PMRS provider. Once the longer term PBI Payment Process requirements are in place, CCSE will only accept data from qualified PDPs who submit the application package identified in the Instructions) currently being vetted through the Metering Sub-Committee.

Meter Verification Process

As per the language in the Handbook pertaining to the installation contract, the performance meter is to be called out in the contract and if it is not, CCSE directs the participant to identify the performance meter they intend to install. CCSE would then confirm that meter is listed on the CEC Eligible Meter List AND that it meets the Appendix B requirements. In addition, the meter information (make, model & serial number) are also to be identified by the Applicant to CCSE before final approval of the Incentive Claim.

Field Inspection Process

CCSE intends to inspect the majority of the PBI systems but over time we expect to reduce the percentage of random inspections once the process and expectations of the requirements are more widely known to installers and data providers. Our field inspectors record the meter information from the equipment installed at the site so that we can match it against what was reported with the Incentive Claim documentation.

PDP Notification Process

Once the Incentive Claim review has been completed and the project is approved for payment (including inspections) we send out a Final Approval Letter to each of the persons listed on the application and to the PDP. The Final Approval Letter specifies the date on which the PDP must begin recording performance data (on the 1st or 16th of the month following the date the Final Approval Letter is issued) and lets them know that the data is due no later than the 5th or 20th of the following month, depending on the start date. *CCSE will forward an electronic copy of the PBI Data Report spreadsheet to the PDP with the Project information pre-filled.*

Monthly PBI Data Report Transmission

The PDP is responsible for providing monthly system performance data to CCSE via our approved Excel PBI Data Report spreadsheet via email per the PA established payment cycle. CCSE has set up two distinct email address for the separate Payment Cycles:

- pbi1@energycenter.org for Cycle 1
 - o 12:00AM on the 1st of the month through the 12:00AM on the 1st of the following month
- pbi2@energycenter.org for Cycle 2
 - o 12:00AM on the 16th of the month through the 12:00AM on the16th of the following month

CCSE has specific personnel managing each Payment Cycle and any issues with a specific project or payment can be addressed by the CCSE PBI Payment Team. Should a PDP be unable to transmit a data report due to communication issues, we will pay out during the following cycle (double pay) contingent upon receipt of the missing data.

The PDP is responsible for immediately notifying CCSE of any issues they are/will have with transmitting the PBI Data Report. CCSE will only pay incentives on actual performance data.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of these comments regarding the *Opinion Modifying Decision 06-08-028 Regarding Independent Performance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements* on all known parties of record in this proceeding by delivering a copy via email to the current service list.

Executed on January 8, 2008, in San Diego, CA.

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